

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /025 W

----- 116906

R 171346Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9964

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2312

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UR, US, CSCE

SUBJECT: TRAVEL CONTROLS

REFS: STATE 035814, 74 MOSCOW 2362, MOSCOW 0605

1. STANDARD EMBASSY PROCEDURE ON SUBMISSION OF TRAVEL NOTES IS TO FORWARD FIVE (5) OF NINE (9) COPIES OF TRAVEL REQUEST (RETAINING FOUR (4) FOR INTERNAL EMBASSY USE) TO MFA PROTOCOL SECTION AT LEAST 48 OR 24 HOURS BEFORE DEPARTURE AS APPLICABLE. WHEN AN EXCEPTION TO THE PRIOR NOTIFICATION RULE IS REQUIRED, EMBASSY TRAVEL OFFICER TELEPHONICALLY NOTIFIES MFA PROTOCOL (USUALLY VACHNADZE) THAT A TRAVEL NOTE WITH EXCEPTION REQUEST IS ENROUTE. EXCEPTION IS THEN GRANTED OR REFUSED, OFTEN AT THE SAME TIME INITIAL PHONE REQUEST IS MADE, CONTINGENT UPON SOVIET CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MOMENT.

2. EMBASSY PHONED MFA PROTOCOL FEBRUARY 17 TO ASCERTAIN PRECISE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED STATE 035814. SEMYONOV RESPONDED THAT 48 OR 24 HOUR TIME COUNT BEFORE TRAVEL BEGINS WHEN TRAVEL NOTE IS RECEIVED IN PROTOCOL SECTION BUT THAT MFA EKSPEDITSIYA IMMEDIATELY FORWARDS ALL TRAVEL NOTES UPON RECEIPT AT MFA AND NO DELAY IS INCURRED. HOWEVER, HE ASSURED US THAT PROTOCOL IS NOT VERY STRICT IN ITS APPLICATION OF THE PRIOR NOTIFICATION RULE AND IF THE EMBASSY, FOR EXAMPLE, SENDS OVER A TRAVEL NOTE BY TEN IN THE MORNING FOR THE NIGHT

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TRAIN TO LENINGRAD A 24-HOUR EXCEPTION REQUEST IS NOT REQUIRED.

3. MFA PROTOCOL'S PERFORMANCE ON TIME EXCEPTIONS REQUESTED IS MIXED THOUGH, IN THE MAIN, FORTHCOMING. PRIMARY CONSIDERATION SEEMS TO BE THAT SUFFICIENT TIME IS ALLOWED FOR SOVIET CLEARANCE PROCESS: HOWEVER, LAST MINUTE REQUESTS, IF THEY ARE IN CONNECTION WITH OFFICIAL VISITS, DELEGATION TRAVEL OR SOVIET SPONSORED EVENTS, ARE GRANTED ROUTINELY, THOUGH NOT UNTIL AFTER SOME HECTIC SCRAMBLIN BY BOTH EMBASSY AND MFA AND ENTREATIES FOR GREATER LEAD TIME IN THE FUTURE. TRAVEL WHICH MFA PROTOCOL CONSIDERS "UNOFFICIAL" OR OF A LESS "PROPER" NATURE MAY NOT BE DEALT WITH IN THE SAME EXPEDITIOUS MANNER AND REFUSALS ARE MORE COMMON.

FYI: DEPARTMENT SHOULD ADD ONE ADDITIONAL 48 HOUR EXCEPTION REQUESTED AND REFUSED DURING CY 75 TO EMBASSY TRAVEL DATA WHICH WE HAD OVERLOOKED. END FYI. STOESEL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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